

The Southwest Region National Child Protection Training Center at New Mexico State University

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***“What’s done to children,
they will do to society.”***

-Karl Menniger-

Child Maltreatment

**Any act of commission or omission
by a parent or other caregiver that results
in
harm, potential for harm or threat of harm
to a child.**

Acts of Commission

- Acts that are deliberate and intentional regardless if harm to the child is the intended consequence of the act.
- Types
 - Physical abuse.
 - Sexual abuse.
 - Psychological abuse.

Acts of Omission

- Failure to provide for basic needs regardless if harm to the child is the intended consequence.
- Types
 - Physical/Emotional neglect.
 - Medical/dental neglect.
 - Educational neglect.
 - Failure to supervise.
 - Exposure to violent environments.

Effects of Child Maltreatment

- Brain Architecture.
- Mental Health.
- Health Risk Behaviors.
- Social Functioning.
- Life Expectancy.

More Specifically

- Smaller brains.
- Learning Disorders.
- Juvenile Delinquency.
- Adult Crime.
- Suicides.
- Sexually Transmitted Diseases.
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

Long-term Reactions: Impact on Adult Health

Increased Risk: (Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study)

- Smoking.
- Alcohol abuse.
- Drug abuse.
- Heart disease.
- Cancer.
- Depression.
- Liver disease.
- Multiple sexual partners.
- Sexually transmitted diseases.
- Suicide attempts.
- Unintended pregnancies.
- Risk for intimate partner violence.

- Childhood maltreatment significantly associated with most adult crime outcomes.
- Childhood and adolescent maltreatment victims have higher rates of overall delinquency, along with violent, drug, and property offending.

Child Maltreatment in New Mexico 2011

B. Child Maltreatment Data (National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System [NCANDS])

Overview Maltreatment Information⁶

	2008		2009		2010		2011	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Children subject of an investigated report alleging child maltreatment	23,178	45.8 per 1,000	23,277	45.6 per 1,000	27,122	52.3 per 1,000	27,729	53.4 per 1,000
Total child maltreatment victims ⁷	5,656	11.2 per 1,000	5,368	10.5 per 1,000	6,018	11.6 per 1,000	6,231	12.0 per 1,000
Child fatalities	19	3.8 per 100,000	10	2.0 per 100,000	19	3.7 per 100,000	15	2.9 per 100,000

Reports do NOT reflect the number of children experiencing maltreatment.

Estimation that 1 in 5 children experience some form of maltreatment.

2011 NM Child Maltreatment in Perspective

Each seat in the Pan American Center at NMSU would be filled TWICE

AND

Have over 2700 children waiting in line.



New Mexico Kids Count: 50th

↓ Economic Well-being.

- Poverty, unemployment, teens not in school/working.

↓ Education.

↓ Health.

↓ Family & Community.

- Single parent status, uneducated, teen births.

Costs of Child Maltreatment

- Short and long-term health care.
- Special Education.
- Productivity Losses.
- Child Welfare and Criminal Justice Costs.
- **\$124 BILLION** lifetime economic burden for reported child maltreatment in 2008.

Child Maltreatment is Everyone's Problem!

**New Mexico
is part of the solution!**

National Child Protection Training Center

- Gundersen Health System.
- Jacob Wetterling Resource Center.
- National Association to Prevent Sexual Abuse of Children.
- Center for Effective Discipline.
- Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.
- National District Attorneys Association.
- Institute on Violence Abuse and Trauma.
- Native American Children's Alliance.

Establish Regional Training Centers

Southwest Region National Child Protection Training Center (SW-NCPTC) at NMSU

- West Texas.
- New Mexico.
- Arizona.
- Southern California.
- 151 Counties.

SW-NCPTC Mission

“To end child abuse, neglect, and other forms of child maltreatment in three generations through education, training, awareness, prevention, advocacy and the pursuit of justice.”

Additional Benefits

- Develop models on how to interact on a collaborative shared enterprise.
- Specialized workforce.
- Influence practices to create standards of excellence in reducing and responding to child maltreatment.
- Economic growth.
- Community development.

Student Perspective

“A center that offers training of this magnitude is a great resource. Child maltreatment affects all professions and having this training available, we are able to enter the workforce more prepared. Not only for students like myself who are specifically interested in preventive factors to decrease crime but for all professions involved in the community.”

-M.H.-

Creating a Trauma-Informed System

- Promote child and family resilience factors.
- Understand impact of past and current child and adult traumatic stress.
- Institute system response to mitigate impact.

Types of Prevention

- **Primary** – programs for the general population that try to prevent abuse before it occurs.
 - Media campaign, parent education, family support.
- **Secondary** – programs for families with risk factors for abuse such as poverty or young parental age.
 - Home visiting, respite care, high school parent education.
- **Tertiary** – programs for families where maltreatment has already occurred to prevent reoccurrence.
 - Incarceration services, family preservation, parent mentor, behavior modification

Early Primary Prevention

- Efforts in early childhood an important link in comprehensive efforts to reduce juvenile crime.
- Early family support and educational interventions affect multiple risk factors for delinquency.

Prevention vs. Treatment

- Prevention is more effective and less costly than treatment.
- Investing in prevention yields a 19 to 1 savings over long-term costs.
- Cost effective even if reduction is modest.

Education/Awareness

- High-Schools.
- Institutes of Higher Learning.
 - Community Colleges.
 - Universities.
 - Schools of Law, Medicine, Divinity.
- Media Campaigns.
- Community Outreach.

Child Advocacy Studies (CAST)

*“The most compelling reason to offer CAST
in colleges and universities
is that it may later
prevent a child maltreatment case from
being mishandled or overlooked.”*

(Vieth, 2006)

CAST across America (2013)



Community Outreach

- Create communities where:
 - there are many services and supports for parents.
 - neighbors share a belief in collective responsibility to protect children.
- Family Resource Center.
- Community Mental Health & Wellness Clinic.
- Prevention Programs.

Community Outreach

- Strengthening Families.
 - Parenting classes.
 - Support groups.
- MOU with UNM.
- Citizen Review Boards.
 - Identify gaps in resources.
 - System reform.

Training

- Provide a modern training complex complete with
 - Interview rooms with two way mirrors.
 - Mock home with cameras.
 - Webinar rooms.
 - Mock courtrooms.
 - Control center for observation.

Training

- Law Enforcement Video Series.
 - Ensuring Child Safety Upon Parental Arrest.
 - Ensuring Child Safety in Abuse/Neglect Referrals.
 - Ensuring Child Safety and Minimizing Trauma.
- E-learning for Educators.
- Investigation & Prosecution of Child Abuse & Neglect Cases.

Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases

- Over 100 attendees.
 - Law Enforcement, DA's, Attorneys CYFD Investigators.
- Topics
 - Opening Statements/Closing Arguments, Investigation/Interviewing/Interrogating, Cross-Examination, Testifying, Assessing Allegations.

Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases

- 100% reported the information would be useful in their positions and improve job performance.
- Recommendations for more trainings.

Multi-State Study

- Collaboration with Western Region Child Advocacy Centers (13 states).
- Survey child protection professionals.
 - Academic & OJT preparation.
- Assess professional development needs.
- Specific survey of Native American needs.

Facilitators of Change

- Recognize shared responsibility of private and public leaders.
- Build a continuum of trauma-informed care and training systems.
- Promote collaboration and multi-disciplinary teams.
- Coordinate policies, programs and resources.
- Ensure sustainability of systems that provide care and training.

Policy and Funding Recommendations

- Training and Education.
- Community Outreach.
- Parenting & Family Wellness Programs.
 - Involve parents in policy/program development & delivery.
- Evaluation.
- Support State legislation.
- Support Congressional legislation.

***“We can end child abuse
and
we can do so within the lifetimes of
our great grandchildren
if
we start the clock ticking from this
moment.”***

-Victor Vieth-